

successfully graduated from the same class 12 years ago. Today, they are both proud to be nursing directors in their respective departments, always eager to lend a helping hand to anyone who might need it and help people live healthier lives.

For this and more, we honor Ricky Rodriguez.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL GARY L.
THOMAS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor General Gary L. Thomas, United States Marine Corps, for his service to our great nation and his family's faithful service, as well. The theme of his distinguished career is one of achievement with highest honors throughout his 37 years of unconditional service to the United States of America.

General Thomas was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1984 after graduating from the University of Texas-Austin. In his 37 years as a Marine, General Thomas has deployed in support of military operations in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Notably, his bravery and skillful command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom helped ensure the success of follow-on combat operations in the skies and on the ground. Additionally, his masterful leadership in combat while in command of Second Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in Afghanistan enabled coalition air forces to effectively provide fires, transport, and reconnaissance to ground forces. In various higher headquarters staff positions, including his time as the Marine Corps' Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, General Thomas significantly impacted the Nation's military readiness to face challenges around the globe. We are all safer due to his selflessness and dedication.

General Thomas's final tour in the Marine Corps is as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. During a tremendously challenging period for the Marine Corps, the Department of Defense, and the Nation as a whole, General Thomas provided guidance and leadership with exceptional skill and drive. His broad knowledge base and expertise, his ability to foresee the impact of policy changes on the current readiness and future health of the Marine Corps, and his camaraderie and goodwill with senior leadership throughout the Department of Defense and U.S. Congress proved to be supremely valuable in his role as the service vice chief. His sound judgment and recommendations reached the highest levels of leadership in the Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. Government. General Thomas's leadership during these challenging times is just one more example of the type of Marine that he is, one of the very best.

Over his years of faithful service, General Thomas has earned the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star, among other awards.

General Thomas has served 37 outstanding years in support of our beloved Nation and will retire on October 15, 2021. His unmatched professionalism has had a profound and lasting influence on generations of Marines and our entire institution. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize not only General Thomas, but his entire family for their undeniably incredible service to the U.S. Marine Corps and our great Nation. Their sacrifice and dedication is truly remarkable. I wish him and his beloved wife, Catherine, well as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. God bless the Thomases, God bless the United States of America, and Semper Fidelis.

HONORING SOL HINCAPIE FOR
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Sol Hincapie. Sol was born in Medellin, Colombia, and came to New York City when she was 13 years old. She lived in New York for 25 years and then moved to Florida, where she has lived for four years.

Sol completed her bachelor's degree in science nursing in Puerto Rico and graduated as a licensed practical nurse from Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York. She is currently working towards getting her license as a registered nurse.

Sol is the oldest three children and has two brothers, Rafael and Alejandro Urrego. Her parents, Alberto and Marleny Urrego, worked hard to provide a better life and education for Sol and her brothers. They encouraged their children to stay in school and become better people by helping their community and others.

Sol has a caring and compassionate personality and is satisfied through helping others. This satisfaction is what motivated her to choose nursing as a career. Sol serves as a senior licensed practical nurse at the Florida Department of Health in Osceola County, providing support to the school health program. She has been at the forefront of the health department's COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts and continues to provide quality healthcare to the residents of our community.

For this and more, we honor Sol Hincapie.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FORMER COMMISSIONER
ROMAN LEON GUERRERO
QUINATA, SR.

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of former Commissioner Roman Leon Guerrero Quinata, Sr. He was an esteemed leader, selfless advocate, and true public servant for the People

of Guam. We will fondly remember him as a pillar of strength and CHamoru resilience who aspired to elevate the quality of life for Talo'fo'fo' residents, our larger island community, and the future generations of Guam.

Commissioner Quinata first assumed office in 1969 as the third elected commissioner of Talo'fo'fo' and went on to serve three consecutive terms. Tirelessly working to meet the needs of residents, he embodied a kind of leadership that truly sought to connect people to resources and aimed to realize a better future for Guam by facing the challenges of our day with faith and works. In addition to his instrumental role in implementing the island's first postal mail delivery system, Commissioner Quinata actively endeavored to foster greater community involvement by organizing various youth activities such as basketball, football, and little-league baseball events in his village. Moreover, this demonstrated commitment to advancing community connections was evident in his historic efforts to repatriate Imperial Japanese Army Sergeant, Shoichi Yokoi, after almost 28 years of hiding in the hills of Talo'fo'fo' following the cessation of World War II.

This devotion to others was not limited by his 12-year tenure alone. Prior to taking on his role as an elected official, Commissioner Quinata courageously answered our nation's call to serve with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. He also became a Power Plant Electrician with the U.S. Naval Public Works Center in Guam, served as a Utilities Consultant at the Public Utilities Agency of Guam (PUAG), provided critical insight into Guam utilities infrastructure development as a member of the Guam Waterworks Authority's Board of Directors, and retired after 33 years of distinguished service within the Government of Guam.

Beyond these professional achievements, however, most inspiring is the strength of character and unconditional generosity he personified as part of the Greatest Generation of Guam. Born in 1929, Commissioner Quinata was only 12 years old when WWII arrived on Guam's shores. Despite the pain and suffering he endured as a survivor of the war, he remained steadfast in his personal mission to advocate for forgiveness and faith in place of hatred and animosity. As an important voice for survivors and Grand Marshal on the 75th Annual Guam Liberation Day, his courage to recount his experiences aided in both preserving the stories of our people and advancing greater parity and justice for Guam and the Territories.

Commissioner Roman Leon Guerrero Quinata, Sr., is an icon of fortitude and true servant leadership who continues to inspire generations throughout our island. He has cultivated a spirit of hope and legacy of selfless service by manifesting resilience in the face of enormity and promoting a lifelong message to love our neighbors. I wish to extend my deepest condolences to Commissioner Quinata's family and friends, and I join the People of Guam in remembering and celebrating his life and contributions to our island and Nation. He will be dearly missed, and his love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of the People of Guam.